

W.G. de Winton del.

Herpestes naso, de Winton.

Mitlern Bros. Chromo.



Tierwilde, Liverp. Mus.



Bulletin

of the

Liverpool Museums

UNDER THE CITY COUNCIL.

Edited by **H. O. Forbes, LL.D.**, *Director of Museums.*

VOL. III.

MAY, 1901.

No. 2.

Description of a New Mongoose from West Africa,

BY **W. E. DE WINTON, F.Z.S.**

(PLATE I.—*Viverride.*)

The Mongoose here described was presented to the Liverpool Museums by Mr. A. Ridyard, who obtained it in the Cameroon River, West Africa, and lived in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London for about one year. By the kindness of Dr. Forbes, the specimen was made over to the British Museum by exchange.

In captivity the animal was at all times perfectly silent and somewhat shy, but soon became friendly with those whom it recognised, and its friendship was easily gained by the gift of a sparrow or other small bird, which was very quickly eaten.

The writer has had in his possession for some time the skull of a very large Mongoose, obtained from the natives by Mr. G. L. Bates on the Benito River, in the north of the French Congo. There can be no doubt of the identity of this skull with the present species, and as it is that of an adult male, the measurements are given below. The sagittal crest in this specimen is greatly developed, rising about five millimetres in height above the roof of the skull, from just in front of the temporal constriction backwards. In this specimen, too, the ossification of the orbital ring is complete and very strong; in the type the frontal and malar processes are not in contact.

The general form of the animal when alive gave very little indication of its true affinity. Its digitigrade carriage more resembled that of the subgenus *Ichneumia*, while its long face distinguished it from all known Mongooses; this latter character is, however, almost entirely due to the length of the fleshy snout which extends far in front of the mouth and bones of the face.

***Herpestes naso*, sp. n.**

In general form and carriage this species strongly resembles the White-

D



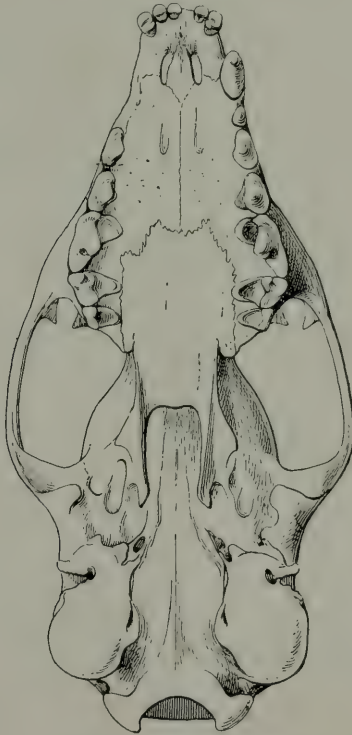
tailed Ichneumon (*Ichneumia*), but the head is much longer and the snout extends far in front of the lower lip.

General colour very dark grizzled, or jet black dusted with white or yellow; the head and neck are considerably paler than the body, owing to the finer and whiter annulations of the hairs; the body fur is all annulated in various degrees, the hairs having one or two golden rings of various depth on their distal half; the tail is much the colour of the head and neck, the rings on the hairs being whitish; the legs and feet are almost jet black. The hairs of the whole body and tail agree in having a broad white band about the middle of their length, which is very conspicuous above the under fur when the hair is raised or parted; the under fur is dark brownish grey with pale tips.

Type ♀. British Museum, No. 0.7.5.1.

Measurements taken from the animal in the flesh:—Head and body 580 millimetres, tail 370, fore-arm and hand 145, hind-foot 105, ear 37 by 36 broad, nose to ear 112, nose to front of eye 57, eye opening 8, back of eye to ear (notch or meatus) 47; the snout extends in front of lower lip 23 millimetres.

A perpendicular line drawn from the front corner of the eye cuts the



SKULL OF *Herpestes naso*.
Slightly less than natural size.

back of the gape. Iris orange brown. The rhynarium in front measures 17 millimetres in height, the breadth of the upper lappets of the nostrils is also 17,

the smallest distance between the nostrils in front is 10, and on the dorsal surface, where they appear like two narrow oval openings, the nearest points are 14 millimetres apart; the greatest width of the rhynarium outside the nostrils is 21 millimetres.

Both fore- and hind-feet are webbed, the last joint only of the digits being free. The plantar surface of the fore-feet extends to the carpal joint, or 60 millimetres from the end of the third finger. The plantar surface of the hind-feet extends to the base of the first toe only, or 56 millimetres from the end of the longest toe. The proportions of the toes are as follows:—the fore-feet, 3rd and 4th equal and longest, 2nd shorter by half of pad, 5th shorter than 2nd by half of pad, 1st reaches to basal joint of 2nd, or 27 millimetres shorter. The hind-feet—1st small, 31 millimetres short of 2nd, which is sub-equal with 5th, reaching to the posterior border of the pads of 3rd and 4th, which are very nearly equal, the 3rd being slightly the longest.

The skull and dentition closely resemble *H. caffer*, but may be distinguished by the longer facial portion, the almost horizontal set of the auditory bullae, the rather longer and narrower postpalatal shelf, and the larger size of the second upper molar, which is about half the size of the first.

The principal measurements of the skull are given in tabular form, along with that of the large male from Benito R. and a fully adult *H. caffer* (British Museum, No. 99.8.4.38) from Ravine Station in British East Africa. This latter specimen is unsexed, but, from the size of the teeth, it is presumably a female. The skull of a rather younger male, however, gives practically the same measurements.

	Type ♀.	Benito R. ♂.	<i>H. caffer</i> ♀ (?).
Greatest length,	110	119	102
" width,	53	67	51
Premaxilla to orbit,	38.8	42.5	27.8
Length of palate,	62	67	58.5
Width outside ^{pms.} 3	33	37	33

An Account of a Perforated and Distorted Cranium in the Mayer Museum.*

By A. M. PATERSON, M.D., *Professor of Anatomy*; and F. T. LOVEGROVE,
M.R.C.S., Eng., *Robert Gee Fellow in Anatomy, University College,
Liverpool.*

The following is an account of a remarkable microcephalic and distorted cranium from Eastry, in Kent, in the Liverpool Museums, kindly sent by Dr. H. O. Forbes, the Director, to the Anatomical Department of University College for examination. With it are compared two others in the Pathological Museum, University College, Liverpool, all three being cases of double symmetrical perforations of the parietal bones.

(1) The Eastry Cranium.

The specimen (Figs. 1-4) consists of cranium only. It is scaphocephalic and microcephalic: the sutures are obliterated, and in each parietal bone behind the vertex is a symmetrical perforation of large size.

* Reprinted, with slight verbal alterations, from the *Journal of Anatomy and Physiology*, vol. xxxiv., pp. 228-237, 1900.